

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1) A method for reducing or eliminating a
 decrease in neurosensory retinal function
 following laser treatment of choroidal
 neovascularization (CNV) while maintaining
 the vascular occlusion therapeutic effect of
10 such therapy, the method comprising the
 steps: a) administering to a mammal having
 a CNV a therapeutically effective amount of
 an alpha receptor agonist, b) subjecting
 said mammal to laser irradiation of the
15 retinal locus of the CNV; wherein the amount
 of neurosensory retinal function following
 steps a) and b) is greater than when said
 mammal is subjected to step b) without step
 a) .
20 2) The method of claim 1 wherein the alpha
 adrenergic receptor agonist is an alpha 2
 selective agonist.
- 25 3) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha
 adrenergic receptor agonist is selected from
 the group consisting of brinoinidine,
 clonidine, and para-aminoclonidine.
- 30 4) The method of claim 3 in which the alpha
 adrenergic receptor agonist is brimonidine.

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- 5) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B and/or 2C selective agonist.
 - 6) The method of claim 3 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B selective agonist.
 - 7) The method of claim 6 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of AGN 960, AGN 795 and AGN 923.
 - 8) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 960.
 - 9) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 795.
 - 10) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 923.
 - 11) The method of claim 4 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B specific agonist.
 - 12) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to step b) said method comprises: administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a photoactive agent in a manner

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such that said photoactive agent is present in the CNV during step b).

- 5 13) A method of protecting ocular neural tissue from damage caused by electromagnetic irradiation of the retina comprising delivering to a patient's ocular neural tissue an amount of a neuroprotectant compound effective to protect a plurality of
- 10 ocular neurons from cell death as compared to ocular neuron cell death following such irradiation observed in the absence of the administration of said neuroprotectant.
- 15 14) The method of claim 13 wherein said electromagnetic irradiation is laser irradiation.
- 20 15) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is an alpha adrenergic agonist.
- 25 16) The method of claim 13 wherein said alpha adrenergic agonist is an alpha 2 selective agonist.
- 30 17) The method of claim 16 wherein said alpha 2 selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of brimonidine, clonidine and para-aminoclonidine.

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- 18) The method of claim 17 wherein said compound is brimonidine.
- 5 19) The method of claim 13 wherein said alpha adrenergic receptor agonist is an alpha 2B and/or alpha 2C selective agonist.
- 10 20) The method of claim 19 wherein said alpha 2B and/or alpha 2C selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of AGN 960, AGN 795 and AGN 923.
- 15 21) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 960.
- 22) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 795.
- 20 23) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 923.
- 25 24) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered at a time sufficiently before said electromagnetic irradiation to permit localization within ocular tissue prior to said treatment.
- 30 25) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered following said electromagnetic irradiation.